

# THE DELTA



## The Delta Region:

- *Relies on over 1,100 miles of levees to protect the resources in the Delta and the conveyance system through the Delta.*
- *Encompasses a 750,000 acre area which includes sloughs and islands, cities and towns, as well as a viable agricultural base.*
- *Provides aquatic and terrestrial habitat for over 750 species of plants and animals.*
- *Operates as the hub of California's water system, supplying water to cities in the Bay area and Southern California as well as to farms in the San Joaquin Valley.*
- *Provides an important recreation area that supports many different activities.*

## Innovative Partnerships

The Delta Protection Commission has been charged with regional planning for the "heart" of the Delta. This includes land uses and resource management for the Delta area. Key land uses are agriculture, wildlife habitat and recreation. The Commission, as a CALFED agency, works closely to keep local stakeholders informed about how the CALFED Program is being implemented and brings their concerns and suggestions forward.

## Regional Priorities and Issues

- Preserving a viable agricultural base.
- Maintaining strong levees.
- Protecting water quality for agricultural and urban water users in and around the Delta.
- Protecting and increasing recreational opportunities.
- Restoring healthy ecosystems to benefit native species.

## Statewide Benefits

Many Delta actions directly benefit other regions. These include:

- Improving habitat in the Delta helps protect the anadromous fish that pass through the Delta to other regions.
- Improving levee reliability in the Delta also protect water quality and supply for exporters.
- Partnering with local efforts to support wildlife-friendly agriculture can help restore fish and wildlife populations while protecting the viability of agriculture.
- Protecting water quality in the Delta is also important for water users that divert from the Delta.
- Maintaining Delta recreational resources benefits anglers, boaters, and recreational interests from other areas.
- Restoring habitat in the Delta benefits recreational users and improves water supply reliability.

## Regional Accomplishments



### Water Supply Reliability

- CVP and SWP Operations Criteria (OCAP) Biological Assessment finalized laying the foundation for current and future CVP and SWP Operations.
- Delta Improvements Package adopted that includes a number of key ROD activities that are linked together in order to improve CALFED objectives.
- Pilot study completed on the hydrodynamics and fisheries near the CVP/SWP intakes in the south Delta.
- Modeling studies completed for the Delta Mendota Canal and California Aqueduct Intertie environmental documentation and conceptual design work initiated.



- Two years of research and experiments conducted on Delta Cross Channel re-operation as well as water quality monitoring and fish tracking studies. Preliminary results were presented at public workshops. Pilot study on new technology equipment conducted to determine fish progress in Georgiana Slough.
- \$15.7 million invested in 35 local agricultural and urban water conservation programs.
- \$43 million in grants awarded to increase water recycling by 3,500 acre-feet a year.
- Site-specific diversion improvements installed to assure water supply to south Delta farms.
- Draft engineering feasibility study completed for in-Delta storage project. Further investigations are underway related to the water quality, risk, structural relocations and economics. Information collected during the 2004 Upper and Lower Jones Tract flooding will be used in further evaluations.



## Water Quality

- Progress on temporary barriers continued for the South Delta Improvements Program while environmental documentation is prepared on the permanent agricultural and fish barriers associated with the increased South Delta Improvements Program.
- Hydrodynamic and modeling studies for Franks Tract initiated.
- Program established to monitor dissolved oxygen and other parameters in the Bay-Delta and San Joaquin River through Ecosystem Restoration Program.
- Funding provided to construct the Rock Slough and Old River Water Quality Improvement Projects, which will complete construction in 2005.
- Substantial progress made on Delta water quality modeling of conveyance and storage alternatives. Water quality modeling in the Delta will use the recently collected water quality information from Upper and Lower Jones Tract flooding due to the Middle River Levee Breach.
- \$25 million invested in 9 projects to evaluate how restoration actions may impact Delta water quality, including mercury and organic carbon.

- \$4 million invested in research projects to determine sources and cycling of selenium in the estuary and evaluate impacts to aquatic life.
- \$7 million invested in research projects to evaluate the effects of contaminants on key species of concern, including anadromous salmonids, Delta smelt, Sacramento splittail and sturgeon.



## Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Management

- The Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan (DRERIP) is the first of four regional plans intended to guide the implementation of the CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program. More information on the plan and projects can be obtained at [www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/erpdeltaplan/version2/](http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/erpdeltaplan/version2/).
- 17 projects supported with more than \$4 million so that community organizations can do watershed assessments, citizen monitoring and carry out restoration activities on watersheds in the Bay and Delta regions.



## Levee System Integrity

- Funding provided to improve 43 miles of Delta levees up to the PL 84-99 limit to date.
- Approximately 900,000 cubic yards of dredged material reused to increase levee stability while enhancing habitat to date.
- 15 acres of new tidal marsh habitat created on Decker island in year 4.
- Phase I of Seismic Risk Study completed in year 4.
- A comprehensive reassessment of Delta levees initiated based on issues surrounding the importance and stability of Delta levees as a result of the unanticipated flooding of Jones Tract.
- Emergency response capabilities improved through a draft Multi-Agency Emergency Response Plan that increased coordination and acquisition of flood fight materials.
- Studies initiated to analyze seismic risk to Delta levees.
- Funding for 3 watershed coordinators provided to assist with community based management efforts within the region.